

## CLAIMS

1. A protein which comprises an amino acid sequence identical or substantially identical with the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 3, or a salt thereof.

2. A partial peptide of the protein of Claim 1, or a salt thereof.

3. A method for producing the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2, or a salt thereof, which comprises culturing a transformant transformed with a recombinant vector comprising DNA encoding for the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2 and forming the protein or the partial peptide.

4. An antibody against the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2, or a salt thereof.

5. A method of screening for a compound or a salt thereof promoting or inhibiting the activity of the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2, or a salt thereof, which comprises use of the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2, or a salt thereof.

6. A kit for screening for a compound or a salt thereof promoting or inhibiting the activity of the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2, or a salt thereof, which comprises the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2, or a salt thereof.

7. A compound or a salt thereof promoting or inhibiting the activity of the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2, or a salt thereof, which can be obtained by use of the method of screening of Claim 5 or the kit for screening of Claim 6.

8. A pharmaceutical preparation which comprises a compound or a salt thereof promoting or inhibiting the activity of the protein of Claim 1 or the partial peptide of Claim 2, or a salt thereof, which can be obtained by use of the method of screening of Claim 5 or the kit for screening of Claim 6.

9. A diagnostic agent which comprises the antibody of Claim 4.

10. A pharmaceutical preparation which comprises the antibody of Claim 4.